

Prepare for the New PSAT/NMSQT[®]



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- » Skills Tested on the New PSAT/NMSQT
- » How to Prepare for the New PSAT/NMSQT
- » Sample New PSAT/NMSQT Questions
- » Resources

A blue-tinted photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair is sitting at a desk, looking down at an open book. Behind her, a young man with glasses is also sitting at a desk, looking at a book. Other students are visible in the background, some out of focus. The overall scene is a typical classroom environment.

What Is the New PSAT/NMSQT®?

Some Key Facts

- » Scores for the SAT® Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are reported on a common vertical scale, allowing you to **measure your progress**
- › Propels you toward **college** and **career readiness**
- › Is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- › Serves as an entry point to millions in **scholarship dollars**
- » **3.8+** MILLION students took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2014 to get feedback on their skills and practice for the SAT

What's Changing on the New PSAT/NMSQT®?



2 hours 45 minutes



No penalty for guessing or blank responses
also known as “rights-only scoring”



Personalized SAT® practice through Khan Academy®
with your own PSAT/NMSQT scores



Scale ranges for the scores are 320 – 1520
for the total score

Benefits of the New PSAT/NMSQT®:



Personalized SAT® practice on Khan Academy based on your PSAT/NMSQT answers



Aligned to the new SAT coming out in March 2016



Increased access to new scholarship providers



Online college and career planning tools



Admission and financial aid information from colleges

The background image shows two women in a classroom or meeting setting. One woman, with dark skin and curly hair, is in the foreground, pointing with a blue marker at a whiteboard. She is wearing a patterned jacket over a grey shirt and has a bracelet on her wrist. Another woman, with light skin and blonde hair, is in the background, looking at the whiteboard. The entire image has a blue overlay.

Skills Tested on the New PSAT/NMSQT®

 Reading Test

 Writing and Language Test

 Math Test

- » Each test assesses the academic skills that you've developed over the years, primarily through your course work.
- » These skills are considered essential for success in high school and college and career.

Reading Test

» **5 Passages**

» **47 Passage-Based Questions; 60 minutes**

QUICK FACTS

- › All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- › Some passages are paired with other passages or informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- › No mathematical computation is required.
- › Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.

Reading Test

What to expect?

In the Reading Test, you will encounter questions like those asked in a lively, thoughtful, evidence-based discussion.

Writing and Language Test

» 4 Passages

» 44 Passage-Based Questions; 35 minutes

QUICK FACTS

- › All questions are multiple choice and based on passages.
- › Some passages are paired with informational graphics such as charts, graphs, and tables.
- › Prior topic-specific knowledge is never tested.
- › No mathematical computation is required.

Writing and Language Test

What to expect?

The Writing and Language Test puts you in the active role of an editor who is improving a written passage. Most questions ask you to decide which, if any, of the three alternatives to an underlined part of a passage most improves it.

Math Test

» 2 Test Sections

» 48 Questions (40 multiple choice, 8 grid-ins, 2 sections, 70 minutes)

QUICK FACTS

- › Most math questions will be multiple choice, but some will be student-produced responses (grid-ins).
- › The Math Test is divided into two portions:
Math Test – Calculator and Math Test – No Calculator.
- › Some parts of the test will present you with a scenario and then ask several questions about it.

Math Test

What to expect?

The Math Test focuses on the math that matters most to college and career readiness. To succeed on the Math Test, you will need to demonstrate mathematical practices, such as problem solving and using appropriate tools strategically.

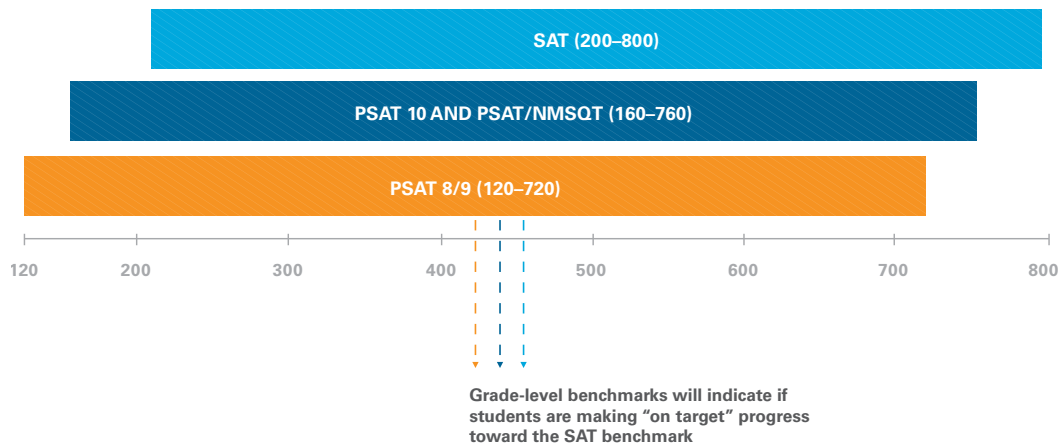
How Does the New PSAT/NMSQT® Connect to the New SAT®?

Content and Domain Alignment:

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments (SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT™ 10, and PSAT™ 8/9) are aligned to the same research backbone and focus on the same domain of knowledge and skills.

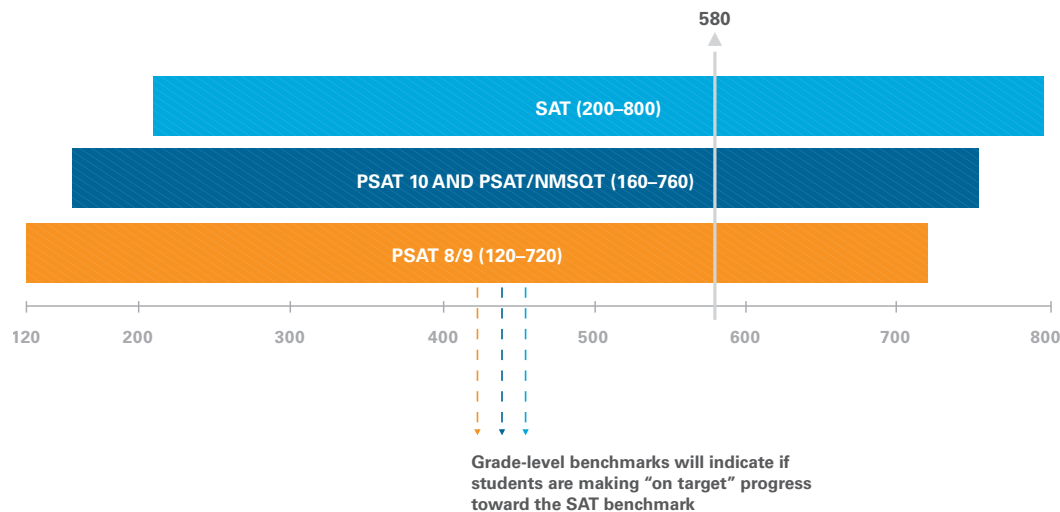
Scoring:

All tests in the SAT Suite of Assessments are on a common score scale that provides consistent feedback, enabling teachers to adjust instruction to better support students who are ahead or behind.



How Does the New PSAT/NMSQT® Connect to the New SAT®?

That means the score you get on the PSAT/NMSQT is the same score you would have gotten on the SAT if you had taken it on the same day.



How Does the New PSAT/NMSQT® Compare to the New SAT®?

PSAT/NMSQT

SAT

2 hours 45 minutes



Time

3 hours 50 minutes

X



Essay

Optional

160 – 760



Section Score Range

200 – 800

Take control of your learning by working on the skills you choose at your own pace with free online courses.

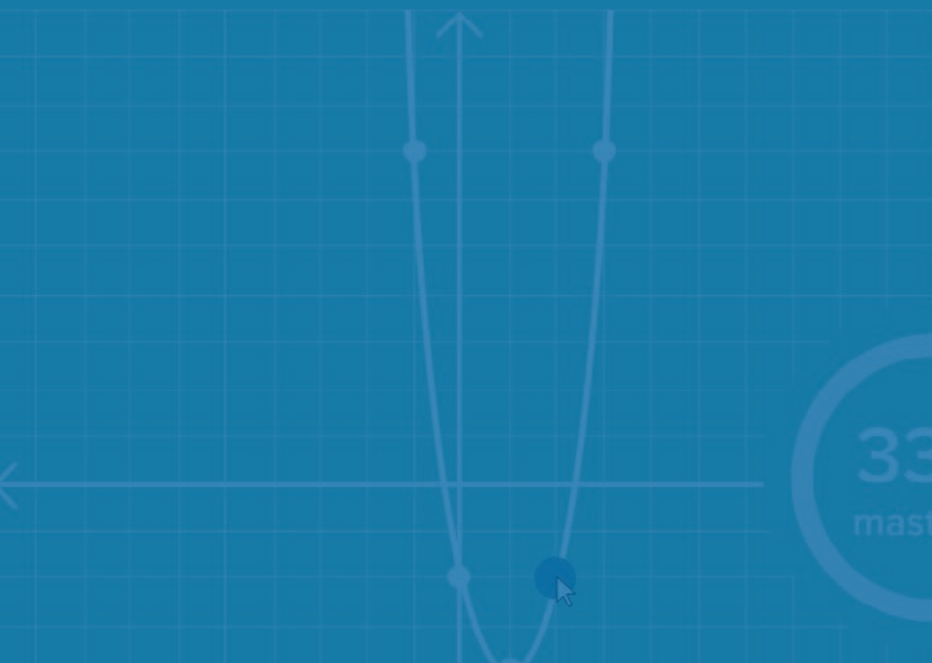


Algebra

UP NEXT: Parabolas

☒ Practice 

How to Prepare for the New PSAT/NMSQT®



Sharpen your skills with over 100,000 interactive exercises.

Know How the New PSAT/NMSQT® Is Scored

Rights-Only Scoring:

- » 1 point for each correct answer
- » 0 points deducted for each incorrect or blank question

Math Grid-ins

- » You can enter answers as (reduced) fractions or decimals
- » If rounding a decimal, make sure to use every box

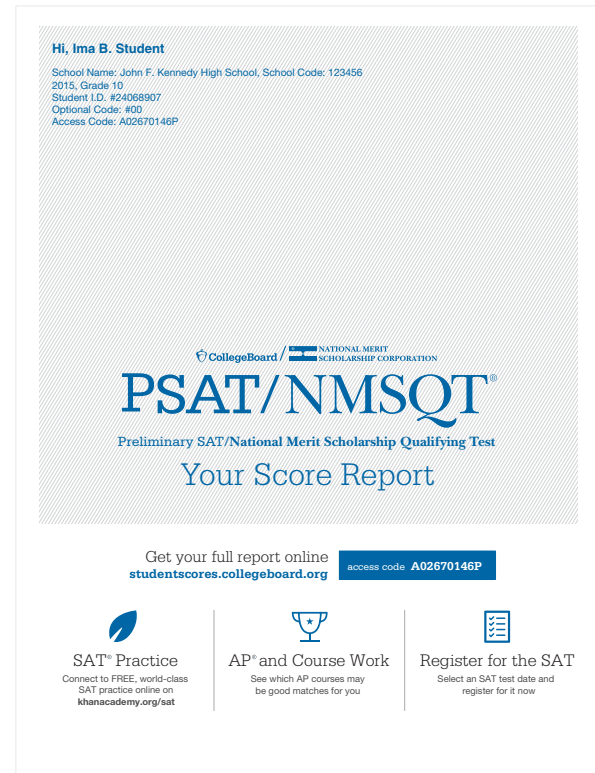
Scale

- » 160 – 760 for each test section
- » 320 – 1520 for the total score

Personalized Skills Information

The PSAT/NMSQT[®] Score Report

- » Contains information **to help you improve your academic skills.**
- » **Lists skills** that you have the best chance of improving with additional work.
- » Connects to **personalized practice** recommendations on **Khan Academy.**



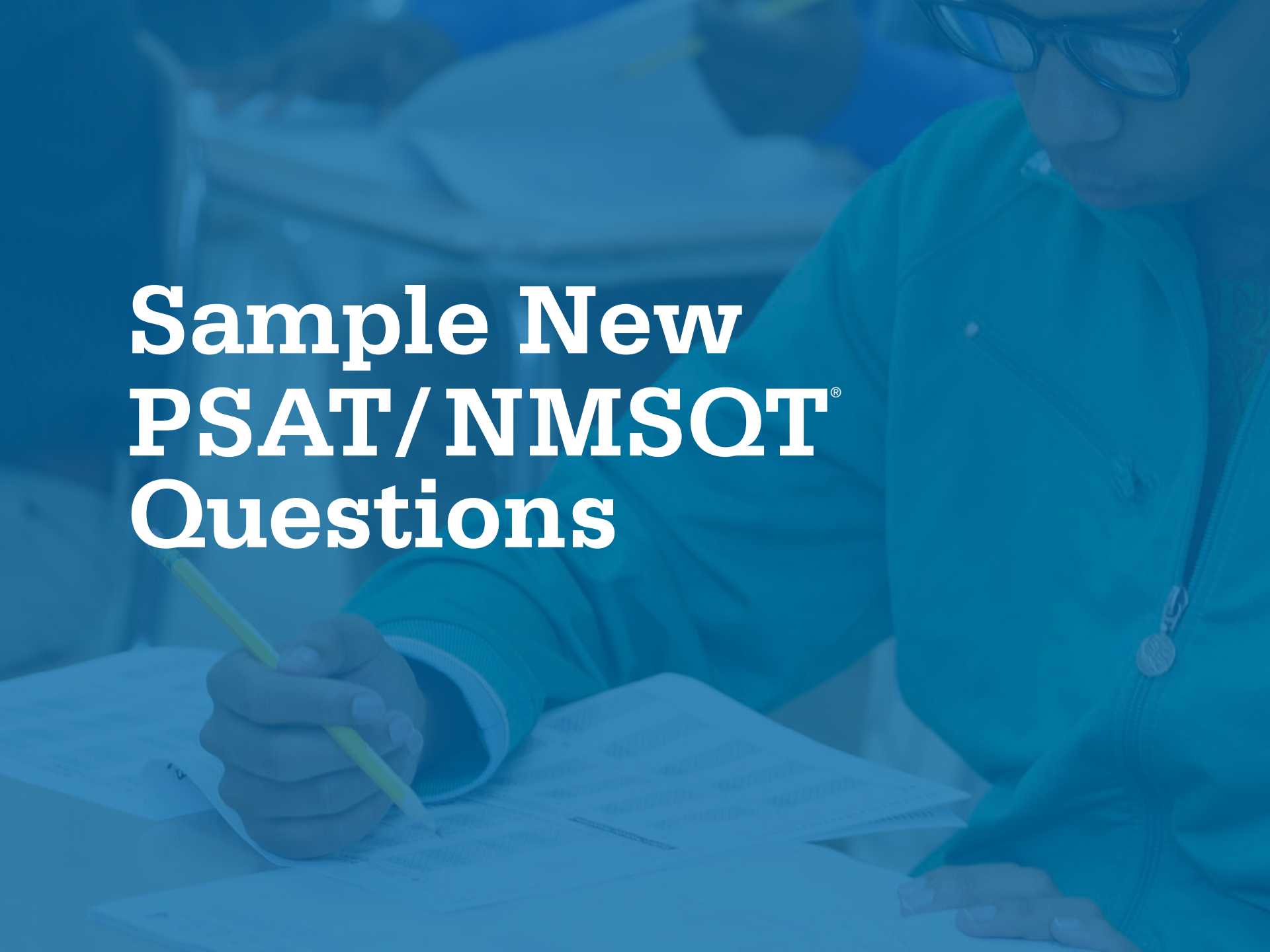
Preparation Starts in School

Read

- » Continuous reading improves vocabulary and develops essential skills.

Take Challenging Courses

- » This will help you to develop and strengthen your critical thinking skills.

A background image of a student wearing glasses and a blue jacket, sitting at a desk and writing on a test paper with a yellow pencil. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered on the left side of the image.

Sample New PSAT/NMSQT[®] Questions



READING TEST

Passage-Based Questions

Passage Excerpt:

[. . .]The coming decades will likely see more intense clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions. Some regions could end up bloated beyond the capacity of their infrastructure, while others struggle, their promise stymied by inadequate human or other resources.

Adapted from Richard Florida, The Great Reset.

© 2010 by Richard Florida.

As used in line 2, “intense” most nearly means

- (A) emotional.
- (B) concentrated.
- (C) brilliant.
- (D) determined.



READING TEST

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(A) emotional.

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(C) brilliant.

(D) determined.



READING TEST

Passage-Based Questions

This question asks students to determine word meaning within a social science context. While students may frequently use the word “intense” to describe personalities or emotions, the context of this sentence requires students to recognize that “intense” can also mean “concentrated.” The best answer here is choice B because the context makes clear that the clustering of jobs, innovation, and productivity is expected to be denser, or more concentrated in a smaller number of bigger cities and city-regions, over the coming decades. In these ways, the question draws students back to the text rather than rewarding only isolated vocabulary knowledge.



WRITING AND LANGUAGE TEST

Passage-Based Questions

Passage Excerpt:

[. . .] As Kingman developed as a painter, his works were often compared to paintings by Chinese landscape artists dating back to CE 960, a time when a strong tradition of landscape painting emerged in Chinese art. Kingman, however, **5** vacated from that tradition in a number of ways, most notably in that he chose to focus not on natural landscapes, such as mountains and rivers, but on cities. [. . .]

5

- (A) NO CHANGE
- (B) evacuated
- (C) departed
- (D) retired



WRITING AND LANGUAGE TEST

Passage-Based Questions

Passage Excerpt:

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(A) NO CHANGE

(B) evacuated

(C) departed

(D) retired



WRITING AND LANGUAGE TEST

Passage-Based Questions

This question asks students to determine which word makes the most sense in the context of a sentence. “**Departed**” is the most contextually appropriate way to indicate that Kingman had deviated from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting in a number of ways. In this sort of question, students must demonstrate not only facility with language in general but also skill in using language in particular contexts to convey meaning clearly and precisely.



MATH TEST

Calculator: Permitted

Aaron is staying at a hotel that charges \$99.95 per night plus tax for a room. A tax of 8% is applied to the room rate, and an additional one-time untaxed fee of \$5.00 is charged by the hotel. Which of the following represents Aaron's total charge, in dollars, for staying x nights?

(A) $(99.95 + 0.08x) + 5$

(B) $1.08(99.95x) + 5$

(C) $1.08(99.95x + 5)$

(D) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$



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(C) $1.08(99.95x + 5)$

(D) $1.08(99.95 + 5)x$



MATH TEST

Calculator: Permitted

This problem asks students to interpret a situation and formulate a linear expression that represents the situation mathematically. The construction of mathematical models that represent real-world scenarios is a critical skill.

The total charge is the room rate, the 8% tax on the room rate, and a fixed fee. If Aaron stayed x nights, then the total charge is $99.95x + (0.08 \times 99.95x) + 5$, which can be rewritten as $1.08(99.95x) + 5$.



MATH TEST

Calculator: Not Permitted

In this equation, what is the value of k ?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

(A) $\frac{9}{7}$

(B) $\frac{9}{13}$

(C) $\frac{33}{17}$

(D) $\frac{33}{13}$



MATH TEST

Calculator: Not Permitted

In this equation, what is the value of k ?

$$\frac{5(k+2)-7}{6} = \frac{13-(4-k)}{9}$$

In this problem, students will demonstrate their fluency in solving equations in one variable.

Choice B is correct. Simplifying the numerators yields

$$\frac{5k+3}{6} = \frac{9+k}{9}$$

and cross-multiplication gives $45k + 27 = 54 + 6k$.

Solving for k yields $k = \frac{9}{13}$

(A) $\frac{9}{7}$

(B) $\frac{9}{13}$

(C) $\frac{33}{17}$

(D) $\frac{33}{13}$



MATH SECTION

Student-Produced Responses

Sample Grids

Instead of choosing a correct answer from a list of options, you'll need to solve problems and enter your answers in the grids provided on the answer sheet.

\$1.75

1	.	7	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	0	0	0
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
6	6	6	6
7	7	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9

$2\frac{1}{3}$

7	/	3	
<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9

0.444 ...

.	4	4	4
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9

20%

.	2		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
2	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9

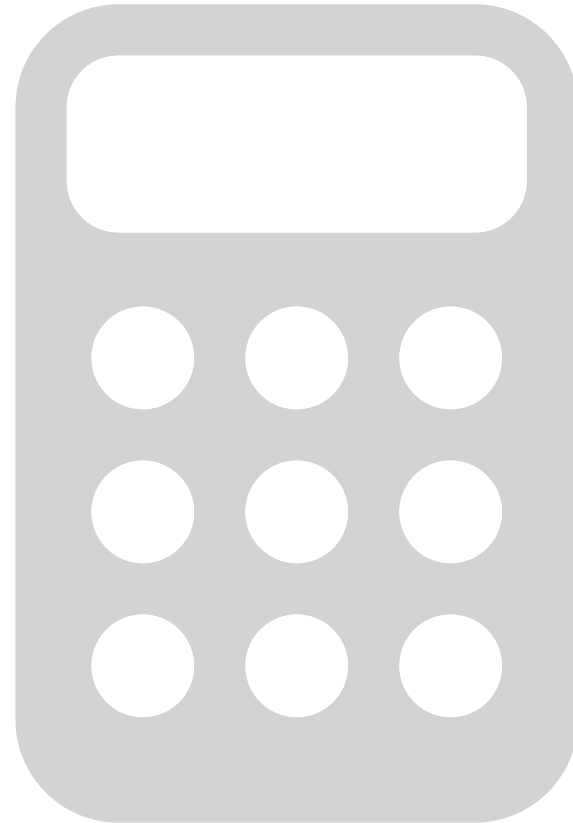


MATH SECTION

Math Test – Calculator

Know Your Calculator

- » A scientific or graphing calculator is recommended.
- » Bring a familiar calculator. Test day is not the time to figure out how to use a new calculator.





MATH SECTION

Math Test – Calculator

Additional calculator tips:

- » Don't try to use the calculator on every question – no question requires one.
- » Decide how to solve each problem; then decide whether to use a calculator.
- » Make sure your calculator is in good working order and that batteries are fresh.
- » You will not be permitted to use laptops or other computers, tablets, cell phones, or smartphones, etc. Please reference the student guide for a complete list.

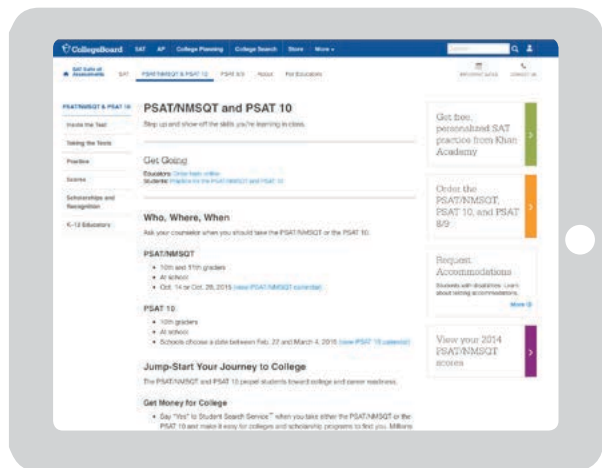
A photograph of two people, a man and a woman, working together at a desk. The man is pointing at a computer screen while the woman looks on. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue filter. The word "Resources" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle-left portion of the image.

Resources



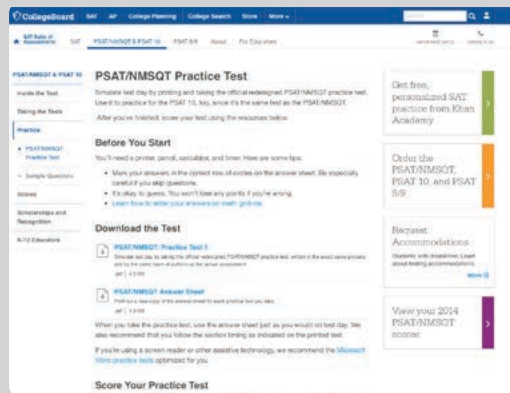
For personalized resources aligned to the SAT® Suite of Assessments (including the PSAT/NMSQT®), please visit:

khanacademy.org/sat



For general information about the new PSAT/NMSQT, please visit:

collegeboard.org/psat



Take the practice test in the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT®*, available through your counselor or at:

collegeboard.org/psatpractice



To find out more about National Merit Scholarship Corporation and its scholarships, visit:

nationalmerit.org/nmsp.php

Take the PSAT/NMSQT®

How to Sign Up: _____

Test Day/Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Make sure you bring:

- » Two No. 2 pencils
- » Calculator (optional)

A photograph of three students in a school hallway. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a red and white patterned vest over a white shirt and light blue jeans, is smiling and holding a blue book. To her right, another young woman with long dark hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, is also smiling and gesturing with her hand. In the background, a young man with short brown hair, wearing a red and black plaid shirt over a black V-neck shirt and dark pants, is smiling. The background consists of a row of white school lockers.

Good Luck!